

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

reforms would not shake the whole structure. He also ways to reduce the plethora of futile functionaries, to restore and purify the mandarinate, to increase the native advisory organizations* and to develop the country's resources. His report showed that Parliamentary committees were studying Indo-China seriously as a colony that had its own special problems. For the first time he foresaw the principle that upon the colony's well-being depends its value to the mother country. This idea appealed both to egoists and to humanitarians, and it gave the necessary driving force to a reform programme.

This metamorphosis of government policy was due not a little to the vague stirrings of contemporary French opinion. The tradition has always been strong in French literature. It preceded and exceeded romanticism, and differed radically from colonial literature, in that it was and is wholly a Metropolitan product. Distant voyages With descriptions of picturesque peoples and their tropical setting, through the author's ever-present personality, have long been favourites with the home-loving French* who have preferred security to distant

Indo-China, unlike Siam, enjoyed only a cursory vogue in France under Louis XVI. A head-dress *d'Amamite* was evolved as an element of fashion but those who wore it would have been hard pressed to tell where it had come from. Even nowadays all Orientals are Chinese to the French peasant, just as all white men and negroes are Occidentals to the Annamite. The diversity and cultures of the different parts of Indo-China were not appreciated until long after

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